



SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Delta Regional Office (serving Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi)
10800 Financial Centre Parkway, Suite 110, Little Rock, AR 72211



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 7, 2017

Contact: Eugene Young
(800) 327 – 2970

USDA Looks Into On-Farm Labor

Jackson, MS –The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its biannual Agricultural Labor Survey during the second half of April. The survey will collect information about hired labor from more than 300 farmers and ranchers.

“The beginning of the year is the time when agricultural producers plan out the rest of their growing seasons and is a great time to assess on-farm labor needs,” said Esmerelda Dickson, NASS Mississippi Statistician. “The data that farm operators provide through NASS’s Agricultural Labor Survey helps federal policymakers base labor policies on accurate information.”

USDA and the U.S. Department of Labor will use statistics gathered in the Agricultural Labor Survey to establish minimum wage rates for agricultural workers, administer farm labor recruitment and placement service programs, and assist legislators in determining labor policies.

In the survey, NASS asks participants to answer a variety of questions about hired farm labor on their operations, including total number of hired farm workers, the average hours worked, and wage rates paid for the weeks of January 8-14, 2017 and April 9-15, 2017. For their convenience, survey participants have the option to respond online.

“By asking about two separate time periods each of the two times we collect data during the year, we are able to publish quarterly data and capture seasonal variation,” said Dickson. “This approach reduces the number of times we ask farm businesses to respond to surveys while ensuring that accurate and timely data are available for anyone conducting research or analyses.”

NASS will compile, analyze, and publish survey results in the May 18 *Farm Labor* report. All previous *Farm Labor* publications are available online at <http://bit.ly/FarmLabor>. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the Delta Regional Office at (800) 327 2970.

NASS provides accurate, timely, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for “NASS Data User Community.”

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).